GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2637
ANSWERED ON:10.08.2005
OPENING OF POST OFFICES
Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai;Singh Shri Sugrib

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) on an average the number of post offices in the country, area-wise and population-wise as on date;

(b) the criteria/norms fixed for opening of new post offices in rural, tribal and hilly areas in the country;

(c) whether the Government provides subsidy to all post offices opened in the rural areas; and

(d) if so, the number of post offices opened during 2004-05 in rural areas and the amount of subsidy given by the Government, State-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)
(a) Circle-wise details of average area and population served per post office is given in Annexure-I
(b) Details of forms fixed for opening post offices is given in Annexure - II.
(c) Yes, Sir. Details are given in Annexure-II.
(d) During 2004-05, 43 Post Offices were opened. Since these offices were opened through relocation, no support for them was given under Plan. Plan support to the extent of Rs.1.81 crore was given only to support the 2371 Panchayat Sanchar Sewa Kendras (PSSKs) opened in the first two years of the 10th Plan. However, under Non-Plan, the Department continues to meet the gap between revenue and expenditure of each post office, even if this amount exceeds the permissible level of loss. State-wise details of this support are not being maintained separately.

Annexure-I

CIRCLE WISE AVERAGE AREA AND POPULATION SERVED BY A POST OFFICE AS ON 31.3.2004

S. No	Circle	Total No. of Post Offices	Area served by a Post Office (in Sq KM)	Population served by a Post Office
1	ANDHRA PRADESH	16197	16.98	4676
2	ASSAM	4008	19.56	6647
3	BIHAR	9055	11.07	9153
4	CHHATTISGARH	5830	23.21	3568
5	DELHI	580	2.41	23759
6	GUJARAT	8967	21.86	5626
	D & DIU	19	8.60	8421
	D.N.HAVELI	38	12.92	5789
7	HARYANA	2649	16.69	7958
8	HIMACHAL PRADESH	2780	20.04	2187
9	JAMMU & KASHMIR	1687	131.71	5969
10	JHARKHAND	3049	24.20	8826
11	KARNATAKA	9909	19.37	5319
12	KERALA	5065	7.70	6286
	LAKSHDWEEP	10	3.20	6000
	MAHE	4	2.18	35119
13	MADHYA PRADESH	5665	54.40	10660
14	MAHARASHTRA	12721	24.20	7608
	GOA	259	14.29	5174
15	NORTH EAST			
	ARUNACHAL PRADESH	306	272.64	3550
	MANIPUR	698	31.86	3414
	MEGHALAYA	493	45.44	4686
	MIZORAM	404	52.36	2208
	NAGALAND	328	50.62	6105
	TRIPURA	716	14.53	4455

16	ORISSA	8175	19.08	4491
17	PUNJAB	3907	12.90	6217
	CHANDIGARH	50	2.28	18000
18	RAJASTHAN	10453	32.74	5402
19	TAMIL NADU	12101	10.74	5133
	PONDICHERRY	95	5.26	10211
20	UTTAR PRADESH	17666	13.07	9399
21	UTTRANCHAL	2722	23.33	3115
22	WEST BENGAL	8752	10.13	9166
	ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS	101	70.30	5347
	SIKKIM	210	39.05	1714
	TOTAL	155669	21.11	6592

Annexure-II

NORMS FOR OPENING POST OFFICES:

1. Norms for opening Extra Departmental Branch Post Offices:

1.1 Population:

(a) In Normal Areas: 3000 population in a group of villages (including the PPO village).

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas: 500 population in an individual village or 1000 population in a group of villages.

1.2 Distance:

(a) In Normal Areas: The minimum distance from the nearest existing post office will be 3 Kms.

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas: The distance limit will be the same as above except that in Hilly Areas, the minimum distance limit can be relaxed by the Directorate in cases where such relaxation is warranted by special circumstances which should be clearly explained while submitting a proposal.

1.3 Anticipated Income:

(a) In Normal Areas: The minimum anticipated revenue will be 33 1/3% of the cost.

(b) In Hilly, Tribal, Desert and Inaccessible Areas; The minimum anticipated income will be 15% of the cost.

It is further to be ensured that as a result of the opening of a new post office, the loss in respect of the parent post office does not increase beyond the permissible limit nor is its income reduced below the minimum prescribed.

2. Criteria for upgrading/opening Departmental Sub Post Offices.

(a) In Rural Areas:

The minimum work load of the Extra Departmental Branch Post Office, proposed to be upgraded, should be five hours per day. The permissible limit of annual loss is Rs. 2400/- in Normal Rural areas and Rs. 4800/- in Tribal and Hilly areas.

It is further to be ensured that as a result of the opening of a new post office, the loss in respect of the parent post office does not increase beyond the permissible limit nor is its income reduced below the minimum prescribed.

(b) In Urban Areas:

In Urban areas, the post office should initially be self-supporting, and, at the time of the first annual review, it should show a 5% profit to be eligible for further retention.

The minimum distance between two post office should be 1.5 Kms. in cities with a population of 20 lakhs and above, and 2 Kms. in other Urban Areas. No two delivery offices, however, should be closer than 5 Kms. for each other.

Heads of Circles have powers to relax the distance condition in 10% of the cases. A Delivery Post Office in Urban Area should have a minimum of 7 Postmen`s beats.